

Message Text

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES AND STANDARDIZATION: ANTI-TANK

WEAPONS

REF: USNATO 0559

1. THERE APPEAR TO BE AT LEAST THREE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO
INCREASED STANDARDIZATION IN WEAPON SYSTEMS IN NATO:

A. NATIONAL INSISTENCE THAT WEAPON SYSTEMS BE TAILORED
PRECISELY TO NATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS.

B. THE ADVERSE IMPACT ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (BOP) WHEN
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BUYING SYSTEMS FROM AN ALLY, AND

C. THE LOSS OF DOMESTIC DEFENSE INDUSTRY EXPERTISE AND EMPLOYMENT WHEN BUYING FOREIGN SYSTEMS.

2. WHEN SYSTEMS SUCH AS ROLAND II AND DRAGON ARE DEVELOPED WHICH GENERALLY MEET COMMON MILITARY REQUIREMENTS, WE BELIEVE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS OFFER PRACTICAL OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE STANDARDIZATION WITHOUT SERIOUS IMPACT ON BOP OR DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT. LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS MAY REDUCE, BUT DO NOT ELIMINATE, DUPLICATIVE R AND D EFFORTS AND DO NOT OPTIMIZE ECONOMY OF SCALE PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THE BENEFITS OF STANDARDIZATION

THROUGH LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS WILL OUTWEIGH THE LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE IDEAL, BUT AT TIMES UNACHIEVABLE, OBJECTIVES. IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO OFFER LICENSED PRODUCTION IN EUROPE OF DRAGON WHEN FEASIBLE TO DO SO. HOWEVER, SUCH AN OFFER AT THE PRESENT TIME WOULD BE PREMATURE SINCE WE HAVE NOT YET SELECTED THE US CONTRACTOR FOR LARGE SCALE PRODUCTION. SUCH SELECTION IS EXPECTED IN MID TO LATE 1976.

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